

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-8, 11-22, 24-26, and 43-47 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 16, 21, and 43 have been amended. Claims 2, 9, 10, 23, and 27-42 were previously cancelled.

Claims 16-20 and 43-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as begin anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0007289 to Malin et al.

The method of claim 16, is hereby amended to include the step of sorting the vehicles for which the status data is unchanged beyond a predetermined length of time by at least one vehicle identifier.

Malin is directed to a method of coordinating automobile repairs by maintaining statistics for several repair shops in a database. Body shop data is automatically updated from data received over a network of computers. This data may be shared with third parties such as insurance companies and the customer. However, Malin does not disclose the method of claim 16 and, more specifically, a method that includes sorting the vehicles for which status data is unchanged beyond a predetermined length of time by at least one vehicle identifier. Because Malin does not disclose at least this step, Malin does not anticipate claim 16. Allowance of claim 16 is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-20 depend from claim 16 and are patentable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons as stated with regard to claim 16 in view of their additional features. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 43 has been amended to include a means for sorting the vehicles for which the status data is unchanged beyond a predetermined length of time at least one vehicle identifier. Malin does not disclose a means for sorting the vehicle information as called for by claim 43. As such, claim 43 is not anticipated by the Malin publication. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 44-47 depend from claim 43 and are patentable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons as stated with regard to claim 43 in view of their additional features. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-8, 11-15, 21, 22, and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Malin in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,516,239 to Madden et al. Claim 1 has been amended to provide for periodically updating the repair status information on the database by transferring the data to the computer database. The information is then transferred to a remote location where it is searched to locate a vehicle undergoing repair

and identify the repair status data for the vehicle. Malin does not teach or suggest, among other features, transferring updated information to a remote location and searching the data at the remote location to locate the vehicle under repair and identify data on the status of the vehicle. As the Office Action points out, Malin teaches transferring information to a database and searching that database for vehicle data. See *Office Action at 5*. There is no provision in Malin to transfer the data to a remote location prior to searching. Moreover, there is no teaching in Malin to motivate one skilled in the art to transfer the data from the database to a remote location prior to searching.

Madden, on the other hand, is directed to an assembly line control system where automobiles passing proximate to a reader along the assembly line are identified. Madden states that the automobile may be identified at a point along the assembly line by the VIN. Madden does not disclose a method of determining the repair status of a vehicle undergoing repair. The reference was cited in the Office Action merely for the purpose of showing that a vehicle could be identified by its VIN. As such, Madden does not add to Malin to teach or suggest transferring vehicle repair data to a remote location prior to searching. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Malin in view of Madden. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-8 and 11-15 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over the cited references for the same reasons as stated for claim 1 in view of their additional features. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

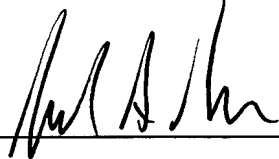
Claim 21 has been amended to include, among other features, a means for requesting information from the remote location to locate the vehicle undergoing repair and a means for identifying data on the status of the vehicle undergoing repair from the requested information. Malin does not teach or suggest a means for requesting information from the remote location or a means for identifying data on the status of the vehicle undergoing repair from the requested information. As shown above, the method of Malin does not disclose requesting information from the remote location and using such information to identify status data on a vehicle undergoing repair. Similarly, Malin does not disclose a means for implementing such steps. Further, Madden does not add to Malin to fulfill this void. Therefore, claim 21 is patentable over the Malin in view of Madden. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-26 depend from claim 21 and are patentable over the cited references for the same reasons as stated for claim 21 in view of their additional features. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing, the pending claims of the instant application are in condition for allowance. A prompt response to this Amendment in the form of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Miller", is written over a horizontal line.

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